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JAN 16 2009

In re Application of  
Robert Bruce Spertell  
Application No. 09/637,923  
Filed: August 14, 2000  
Attorney Docket No. None

ON PETITION

This is a decision in response to the petition, filed September 30, 2008, to revive the above-identified application under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned on September 6, 2002 for a failure to reply to the non-final Office action mailed June 5, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed January 13, 2003. On March 7, 2008, a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was filed; however, the petition was dismissed in a decision mailed May 30, 2008. In response, on September 30, 2008, the present petition was filed.

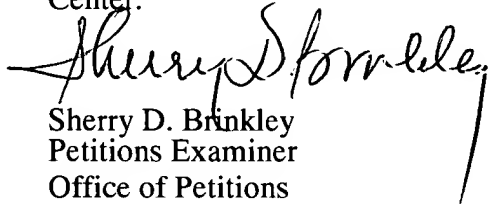
This application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg., at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office, at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office).

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of an amendment; (2) the petition fee of \$770; and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. While the statement is not made by an attorney of record, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3742 for consideration of the amendment filed March 7, 2008.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204. Inquiries relating to further prosecution should be directed to the Technology Center.



Sherry D. Brinkley  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions